

REMARKS

This reply and amendment respond to the final Office Action dated January 23, 2008. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-20, 22-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-37, and 39-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner also stated that previously allowable claims 21, 24, 38, and 44 should be withdrawn as nonelected species. The Examiner allowed claims 4 and 28.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Luong for the courtesy and consideration extended to the Applicants' undersigned representative during the telephone interview conducted on January 23, 2008. Applicants agree with the Examiner's interview summary mailed on February 26, 2008. The following remarks reflect the substance of the interview.

In this response, the specification has been amended. Claims 1-3, 8, 21, 24, 27, 32, 38, and 44-76 have been cancelled. Claims 5-7, 9, 22, 25-26, 29-31, 33, 35-36, and 39-41 have been amended. Claims 4-7, 9-20, 22-23, 25-26, 28-31, 33-37, and 39-43 remain pending. Applicants believe that all the rejections and objections have been addressed in this response.

Non-elected Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner has requested cancellation of claims 21, 24, 38, 44-71, and 74-76. *See Final Office Action* at pp. 2

During the interview, the Examiner suggested that Applicants withdraw claims 21, 24, 38, and 44. By this response, Applicants cancel claims 21, 24, 38, 44-71, and

74-76 without prejudice or disclaimer, and reserve the right to pursue them in one or more continuing applications.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the drawings as being inconsistent with the specification and Applicant's remarks in the amendments. See *Final Office Action* at pp. 2-3. The Examiner also objected the drawings as being not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 and 1.121(d). See *Final Office Action* at pp. 3-4.

During the interview, the Examiner suggested that Applicants amend the specification to comport with the drawings and indicated that such amendment would overcome the objections to the drawings discussed in the Office Action on pages 2-4. The Examiner also suggested that Applicants resubmit the whole set of figures to avoid possible confusion and inconsistency among the drawings and the specification. By this response, Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings and resubmitted five Replacement Sheets corresponding to Figs. 1A-1G, 2A-2B, 3, 4A-4B, and 5-6. Applicants believe that the Office's concerns over the drawings have been addressed by the amendments to the Brief Description of the Drawings and the resubmission of all the drawings, and request that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections and Allowed Claims

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-20, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-31, 33-37, and 39-43, under 35 USC § 103 over Cable. The Examiner has allowed claims 4 and 28. In this response, Claims 1-3, 21, and 27 have been cancelled.

Claims 5-7, 9, 22, and 25-26 have been amended to depend on allowed claim 4, and claims 29-31, 33, 35-36, and 39-41 have been amended to depend on allowed claim 28. Claims 5-7, 9-20, 22-23, 25-26, 29-31, 33-37, and 39-43 are now dependent from one of the allowed claims directly or indirectly. These dependent claims add additional features to the allowed independent claims that render these claims further patentable over the cited prior art. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections are now moot. Amended claims 5-7, 9-20, 22-23, 25-26, 29-31, 33-37, and 39-43 are allowable for at least the same reasons as in the claims from which they depend.

Conclusion


Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

Five Replacement Sheet corresponding to Figs. 1A-1G, 2A-2B, 3, 4A-4B, and 5-6.